

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 21 1961

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

URGENT 5-21-61 7-24 PM CST BS

TO DIRECTOR, F B I

FROM - SAC, BIRMINGHAM 149-16

[REDACTED] ET AL. UNSUBS - BURNING OF GREYHOUND BUS,
ANNISTON, ALABAMA, MAY FOURTEEN, SIXTYONE, CARRYING MEMBERS OF
FREEDOM RIDE, SIXTYONE, CORE -- RM, DMV, CR. ORIGIN BIRMINGHAM.
RE BUREAU CALL TODAY. CONFIRMING INFORMATION TELEPHONICALLY
FURNISHED BY BIRMINGHAM, FOLLOWING RELATES TO POSSIBLE SUBJECTS OF
ACTIVITY AT TRAILWAYS BUS STATION, BIRMINGHAM, AFTERNOON OF MAY
FOURTEEN, LAST. AS BUREAU ADVISED, IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE
INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED BELOW WERE CHARGED BY BIRMINGHAM POLICE
DEPARTMENT, WE ARE NOT COGNIZANT OF IDENTITIES OF WITNESSES AS
USED, BUT KNOW THAT [REDACTED] THOMAS LANKFORD, BOTH
REPORTERS, BIRMINGHAM NEWS, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

IRONDALE, SUBURB OF BIRMINGHAM, CHARGED ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO
MURDER. WITNESS, [REDACTED] INTERVIEWED BY AGENTS AND
IDENTIFIED [REDACTED]. DETECTIVE [REDACTED] FBINA, BIRMINGHAM

10 MAY 24 1961

END PAGE ONE

JUN 9 1961
58 MAY 29 1961

file 100-225892

51

PAGE TWO

POLICE DEPARTMENT, TODAY ADVISED IDENTIFICATION OF [REDACTED] BY [REDACTED] AT BEST AND POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ASK FOR CONTINUANCE RE CHARGES AGAINST [REDACTED] PENDING INVESTIGATION TO CORROBORATE THIS IDENTIFICATION. BUREAU NOTE INFORMATION IN BIRMINGHAM SUMMARY TEL MAY TWENTY, LAST, RE [REDACTED] TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH BIRMINGHAM OFFICE. [REDACTED] CONTACTED TODAY AND STATED WOULD NOT TALK TO FBI, ON ADVICE OF ATTORNEY [REDACTED] ADMITTED TO AGENTS PHOTO BEING HIM AT BUS STATION AND ADMITTED BEING THERE AT TIME OF ACTIVITY, BUT DENIED COMPLICITY. ARRESTED DISORDERLY CONDUCT. ADDITIONAL WITNESSES, [REDACTED], NEGRO AND VICTIM OF BEATING A BLOCK FROM TRAILWAYS, IDENTIFIED [REDACTED] PHOTO AS THE ONE WHO HIT HIM. [REDACTED] NEGRO COMPANION OF [REDACTED] IDENTIFIED PHOTOS OF [REDACTED] AS HAVING CHASED HIM, [REDACTED] KLAN MEMBER, BESSEMER, ALABAMA, WAS PRESENT AT TRAILWAYS, ACCORDING TO BIRMINGHAM [REDACTED] WHO STATED PHOTO IN PICTURE LOOKS LIKE [REDACTED] AND BIRMINGHAM ONE [REDACTED] WAS ADVISED BY [REDACTED] GRAND TITAN OF THE ALABAMA KNIGHTS, KKKK, INCORPORATED, GADSDEN, ALABAMA, THAT PHOTO OF ONE OF INDIVIDUALS AT SCENE WAS [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] KLANSMAN OF TARRANT CITY, SUBURB OF BIRMINGHAM, ARRESTED BY BIRMINGHAM

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END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

POLICE BUT RELEASED. THEIR INFORMANTS IDENTIFYING HIM IN ACTIVITY NOT KNOWN. [REDACTED] KLANSMAN, WAS

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IDENTIFIED FROM PHOTO OF ACTIVITY AS BEING PRESENT BY BIRMINGHAM

[REDACTED] SIMILAR INFORMATION PERTAINING TO

[REDACTED] KLANSMAN, BUT BIRMINGHAM POLICE, ACTING ON BELIEF THAT THE PHOTO WAS ONE [REDACTED] OF BESSEMER, PICKED [REDACTED] UP AND WITNESSES FAILED TO IDENTIFY [REDACTED] DOCTOR [REDACTED],

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NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY, BIRMINGHAM, AND [REDACTED] ASSOCIATE OF ATLANTA, WERE SEEN BY BIRMINGHAM [REDACTED]

IN VICINITY BUS STATION AND LATER FIELDS WAS IDENTIFIED TO BIRMINGHAM

[REDACTED] BY [REDACTED] IMPERIAL WIZARD, THE ALABAMA KNIGHTS, KKKK, INCORPORATED, OF TUSCALOOSA. [REDACTED]

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COMPANION DESCRIBED AS SOMEWHAT OLDER AND WALKED WITH A LIMP, WHICH FITS DESCRIPTION OF [REDACTED] SERGEANT [REDACTED] BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT, INFORMED AGENTS THAT BOTH [REDACTED] HAD BEEN OBSERVED BY HIM PRIOR TO INCIDENT AT BUS STATIONS, BIRMINGHAM.

[REDACTED] IRONDALE, WAS INTERVIEWED BY REPORTER TOM LANKFORD AT CARRAWAY METHODIST HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM, AFTER TRAILWAYS FRACAS

[REDACTED] ADMITTED TO HIM THAT HE WAS AT TRAILWAYS STATION, WAS HIT ON THE HEAD WHICH REQUIRED SEVEN STITCHES, BUT CLAIMED WAS AN

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PAGE FOUR

INNOCENT BYSTANDER. BIRMINGHAM [REDACTED] IDENTIFIED

[REDACTED] AS MEMBER OF EAST VIEW KLAVERN THIRTEEN, THE ALABAMA KNIGHTS, KKKK, INCORPORATED, AND ALSO AS HAVING BEEN AT TRAILWAYS. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] IDENTIFIED BY BIRMINGHAM [REDACTED] AS HAVING BROKEN LEFT FRONT WINDOW OF [REDACTED] CAR WHILE [REDACTED] IN PROCESS OF BROADCASTING EVENTS AT STATION, WHICH EVENT TOOK PLACE ABOUT ONE BLOCK FROM TRAILWAYS STATION. ALSO PRESENT AT LAKE

EPISODE WAS BIRMINGHAM [REDACTED] [REDACTED] IMPERIAL WIZARD, THE ALABAMA KNIGHTS, KKK, INCORPORATED, OF TUSCALOOSA, OBSERVED BY REPORTER [REDACTED] AS DRIVING HIS CADILLAC CAR AROUND BOTH BUS STATIONS PRIOR TO ACTIVITY AT TRAILWAYS AND

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~~AND~~ BIRMINGHAM [REDACTED] TALKED TO [REDACTED] IN

[REDACTED] CAR IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY. [REDACTED] GRAND TITAN, GADSDEN, ALABAMA, KLAVERN OF THE ALABAMA KNIGHTS, KKKK, INCORPORATED, IDENTIFIED BY BIRMINGHAM [REDACTED] AS HAVING BEEN IN

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BIRMINGHAM ON DATE OF OCCURRENCE. ALSO [REDACTED] EXALTED CYCLOPS, EASTVIEW KLAVERN THIRTEEN, THE ALABAMA KNIGHTS, KKKK, INCORPORATED, UPON INTERVIEW WITH AGENTS SAID [REDACTED] HAD COME TO HIS HOME AND THEN WAS TAKEN TO THE REDMONT HOTEL ON THAT AFTERNOON, WHERE HE CHECKED OUT AND THEN WENT TO THE GREYHOUND BUS STATION.

END PAGE FOUR

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URGENT 5-21-61 9-00 PM CST BS

TO - DIRECTOR, F B I
FROM - SAC, BIRMINGHAM 149-16

CHANGED. [REDACTED]

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UNSUBS, ET AL.

BURNING OF GREYHOUND BUS, ANNISTON, ALABAMA, MAY FOURTEEN, SIXTYONE,
ETC -- RM, DMV, CR.

TITLE CHANGED TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS [REDACTED]

APPARENTLY NO RELATION TO SUBJECT [REDACTED] WHO WAS DRIVER OF
TRUCK WHO IMPEDED PROGRESS OF BUS OUT OF ANNISTON, ALABAMA, AND

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[REDACTED] WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS TAKING AN ACTIVE
PART AT BUS DEPOT AND BUS BURNING. BUT NO OVERT ACTS OBSERVED
DAMAGING BUS, AND [REDACTED] WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS
TAKING ACTIVE PART AT SCENE OF BUS BURNING.

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RE BIRMINGHAM TEL MAY TWENTY, LAST, AND BIRMINGHAM TEL CALL DIRECT
FROM ANNISTON TO BUREAU, TODAY. FOLLOWING PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS
ON INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED AT ANNISTON, ALABAMA. MRS.

END PAGE ONE

JUN 9 1961 *mc*

REC-36
EX-111
149-1684-32
100-225892-223
MAY 22 1961
FBI
REC'D - CIVIL RIGHTS
FILE 100-225892

FOUR

ALABAMA, ON NIGHT MAY TWENTY, LAST, READING QUOTE BE A MAN JOIN THE KLAN UNQUOTE. KNOXVILLE OFFICE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO EFFECT IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL IN PHOTO FORMERLY BELIEVED TO BE THE GRAND WIZARD OF TENNESSEE, WHO ACCOMPANIED [REDACTED] AT THE KLAN MEETING [REDACTED] b6 b7C LAST THURSDAY NIGHT. FURTHER EFFORTS BEING MADE TO EFFECT HIS IDENTITY. SUMMARY OF EVIDENTIARY DATA DEVELOPED TO DATE ON SUBJECTS FURNISHED TELEPHONICALLY TO BUREAU TODAY. [REDACTED] ANNISTON PD, DETECTIVE BUREAU, STATED HE WAS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH [REDACTED] AND RECALLED AT THE BUS TERMINAL CHAPPELL MADE VARIOUS COMMENTS TO PERSONS INSIDE THE BUS AND COMMENTS INCLUDED QUOTE NIGGER LOVERS UNQUOTE. HE ALSO RECALLED [REDACTED] DIRECTING COMMENTS TO ONE OF UNIFORMED OFFICERS, QUOTE I THOUGHT YOU WERE A DAMN WHITE MAN UNQUOTE. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT OFFICER [REDACTED], AHP, ON INTERVIEW STATED HE DID NOT RECALL IDENTITY OF ANY INDIVIDUAL IN THE CROWD WHO HE ATTEMPTED TO RESTRAIN. IT IS NOTED ACCORDING TO PHOTOGRAPHER [REDACTED] [REDACTED] WAS IDENTIFIED AS BEING IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF [REDACTED] STATED [REDACTED] CALLED [REDACTED] BY NAME. [REDACTED] STATES HE RECALLED THAT [REDACTED] HAD A CHAIN IN HIS HAND AT THE TIME AND THAT OFFICER [REDACTED] ATTEMPTED TO GET HIM TO DROP THE CHAIN. THOMAS LANKFORD, POLICE REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER, b6 b7C

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FIVE
PAGE FOUR

BIRMINGHAM NEWS, INTERVIEWED AND PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY STATING HE
DESIRED THAT [REDACTED] BIRMINGHAM

PD [REDACTED] STATED HIS ASSIGNMENT b7E

ON MAY FOURTEEN, LAST, WAS TO COVER POSSIBLE ARRIVAL OF CORE GROUP AT
GREYHOUND BUS STATION, BIRMINGHAM, AS HAD LEARNED FROM BIRMINGHAM PD
DURING DAILY CONTACTS. STATED SPENT MOST OF THAT DAY WITH COMMIS-
SIONER CONNOR AND SERGEANT [REDACTED] WHO BOTH WERE IN AND OUT OF THE b6
CITY HALL AND GREYHOUND BUS STATION. LEARNED OF BURNING OF GREYHOUND b7C
BUS NEAR ANNISTON THEREFORE NO VIOLENCE OCCURRED GREYHOUND BUS

STATION AT BIRMINGHAM. HAD OBSERVED DETECTIVES [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AND SERGEANT [REDACTED] AS OBSERVERS AT GREYHOUND STATION.

WHEN EVIDENT GREYHOUND BUS NOT TO ARRIVE, PROCEEDED TOWARD TRAILWAYS
STATION AND ABOUT A BLOCK DISTANT, SAW [REDACTED] WAPI NEWS DIRECTOR,
RUNNING ACROSS STREET FROM STATION TO HIS CAR. AS HE APPROACHED
STATION FROM REAR SAW A FRACAS IN AREA WHICH WAS THEN BREAKING UP AND
NOTED SEVERAL MEMBERS OF BIRMINGHAM NEWS STAFF IN VICINITY. DID NOT
OBSERVE ANY UNIFORMED OFFICERS AT STATION NOR DID RECALL SEEING ANY
ABOVE MENTIONED DETECTIVES. DID NOT RECOGNIZE ANY MEMBERS OF
FIGHTING GROUP. WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE YOUNGER
[REDACTED] FROM PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN OF THE ACTION. STATED WHILE AT b6
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GREYHOUND STATION EARLIER SAME DAY HAD OBSERVED ONE WHITE MALE, APPARENTLY THE LEADER OF THE GROUP, DESCRIBED AS WELL-DRESSED, WEARING STRAW HAT, BROWN SUIT, SIX FEET, TWO HUNDRED POUNDS, WHO MOVED FROM SMALL GROUPS TO OTHERS AS THOUGH GIVING ORDERS. STATED HE KNOWS

ALA
[REDACTED] KLAN LEADER OF TUSCALOOSA, AND THIS INDIVIDUAL NOT

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[REDACTED] ALSO TALKED WITH A DETECTIVE OF THE MONTGOMERY POLICE DEPARTMENT AT GREYHOUND STATION AND HEARD THAT A SHORT DETECTIVE FROM MONTGOMERY WAS AT TRAILWAYS STATION. LANKFORD SUBSEQUENTLY INTERVIEWED [REDACTED] AT CARRAWAY METHODIST HOSPITAL, WHERE TREATED FOR INJURIES RECEIVED IN FRACAS, BUT [REDACTED] CLAIMED ONLY A BYSTANDER. HE WILL BE INTERVIEWED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. [REDACTED]

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ALA
BIRMINGHAM, STATED ONE BLOCK NORTH OF TRAILWAYS STATION AT TIME OF ACTION THERE HE WAS BLOCKED BY A BLACK CADILLAC IN TRAFFIC OCCUPIED BY TWO MEN, ONE A LARGE RED-FACED MAN, AT WHICH TIME THREE ADDITIONAL MEN ENTERED BACK SEAT OF CAR. [REDACTED] IDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPH

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[REDACTED] PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED AS ONE OF THREE ENTERING CADILLAC. DURING INTERVIEW, [REDACTED] WIFE INDICATED THAT SHE DID NOT BELIEVE HER HUSBAND HAD ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION. [REDACTED]

ALA
[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT ON MAY FOURTEEN, SIXTYONE, HE SAW TWO OF THE MEN WHO HAD APPROACHED HIM AT HIS CAR GET IN A CAR

END PAGE ~~FIVE~~

SIX

PAGE ~~SIX~~ 7

WITH GEORGIA LICENSE [REDACTED] A GREEN AND WHITE
MERCURY WITH SIX MEN IN THE CAR. ON MAY SEVENTEEN, SIXTYONE, [REDACTED] b6
[REDACTED] ONE ONE SPRINGDALE DRIVE, ROME, GEORGIA, WAS INTERVIEWED. b7C
HE ADMITTED HAVING A NINETEEN FIFTYSIX MERCURY TWO DOOR HARDTOP,
WHITE OVER GREEN, NINETEEN SIXTYONE GEORGIA LICENSE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] SAID HE WAS IN POSSESSION OF THIS CAR ALL DAY SUNDAY, b6
MAY FOURTEEN, SIXTYONE, AND DENIED THAT EITHER HE OR HIS CAR WAS IN b7C
THE STATE OF ALABAMA AT ANY TIME ON MAY FOURTEEN, LAST. [REDACTED] AT
FIRST SAID HE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY STATEMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT
HE WAS IN ANNISTON, ALA.--, MAY FOURTEEN, LAST, AND TOOK PART IN THE
INCIDENT INVOLVING THE GREYHOUND BUS CARRYING INTEGRATED PASSENGERS
KNOWN AS THE QUOTE FREEDOM BUS UNQUOTE OR WHETHER OR NOT HE FOLLOWED
THIS BUS TO BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA. HE THEN DENIED HE WAS IN ANNISTON
AND DENIED PARTICIPATING IN THE BURNING OF THIS BUS OR ANYTHING
CONNECTED WITH IT. [REDACTED] REFUSED TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT AS TO WHETHER b6
HE WAS OR WAS NOT A MEMBER OF ANY KLAN ORGANIZATION. b7C

END ACK PLS

~~CORECTION~~ ABOVE CONSISTS OF 7 PAGES PLEASE RENUMBER ACCORDINGLY

TU END ACK PLS

11-31 PM OK FBI WA JHA

TU DIC